

Hoo Hoo House
Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition Grounds, now
University of Washington Campus
Seattle
King County
Washington

HABS No. WASH-148

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HOO HOO HOUSE

Location: Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition Grounds (now University of Washington Campus), Seattle, King County, Washington. Demolished April 1959

Brief Statement of Significance: This building represented a pivotal phase of Seattle architectural development. Reflecting an awareness of the American tradition of wooden architectural forms (as well as the superabundance of timber resources in the Pacific Northwest), it also marked the introduction to this region of the more recent architectural aims of the Midwest "prairie architects," and the tentative adaptation of these aims to a new environment. The building stood in sharp contrast to its "American Renaissance" neighbors at the Exposition.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Erected in 1909 by the Hoo Hoo Club, a national fraternity of men engaged in the lumber business, as a club house and exhibition space for members and guests during the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition. Until its removal in 1959 to create space for a new building, it served as the Faculty Club of the University of Washington.
2. Date of erection: 1909 for \$8,500, including decorations.
3. Architect: Ellsworth Prime Storey (1879-1960), B.S. (University of Illinois, 1903), A.I.A., Seattle.
Builder: Pacific Contracting and Investment Company.
Suppliers and subcontractors as follows:
 - Ellsworth and Lofgren, wiring
 - Eckhart Brothers, plumbing
 - A. E. Coxhead, painting
 - D. E. Fryer and Company, plaster
 - J. J. Tinker of Portland, Oregon, plastering
 - Schwabacher Hardware Company, hardware
 - Ballard Lumber Company, Douglas fir
 - W. W. Peed, redwood
 - Slade Lumber Company and Northwest Lumber Company, spruce
 - Weissenborn and Company, decorators
 - Seattle Turning and Scroll Works, furniture
 - Otis Sargent's "Homecraft" shop, lighting fixtures
 - Japanese government lent "screens"
 - Architectural Decorating Company, staff cats at entrance

4. Original plans, construction, etc.: See supplemental material (Part I, C. of this report). The preliminary drawings, blue-print copies of the working drawings (signed by the contractor), and blue-print copies of the architect's designs of custom-built furniture for the building are in the possession of this recorder.
5. Notes on alterations and additions: The building originally had an open veranda off the first floor club room. At an undetermined date this was closed in, and other interior changes were made when the building was occupied by the university. The decorative cat figures at the entrance and crowning the gable ends (a Hoo Hoo symbol) were also removed at an undetermined date.
6. Important old views and references:
 - a. Floor plans and one photograph of entrance elevation: "The Hoo Hoo House at the A.-Y.-P. Exposition," Pacific Builder and Engineer, Vol. 7, No. 24 (June 12, 1909), pp. 234-236.
 - b. Photograph of entrance elevation: One Hundred and Fifty Latest Views of the A. Y. P. Exposition and the Puget Sound Country (Seattle: Robt. A. Ried, 1909), n.p.
 - c. Photograph of entrance elevation: The Seattle Architectural Club Yearbook, 1910 (Seattle: Lowman and Handford Co., 1910), n.p. (copy included in this photo-data book).
 - d. James F. O'Gorman, "The Hoo Hoo House. . .," Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, Vol. XIX (October 1960), pp. 123-125; with plan, one interior photograph, and one exterior photograph of entrance elevation.

B. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: The Hoo Hoo Club,
Seattle Chapter.

C. Supplemental Material: Quoted from the Pacific Builder and Engineer, Vol. 7, No. 24 (June 12, 1909), pp. 234-236:

THE HOO HOO HOUSE AT THE A.-Y.-P. EXPOSITION
A Club House of Individual Architecture--Unique Ornamentation
and Appropriate Decoration
Staff Correspondent

The Hoo Hoo house, one of the best architectural features of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, is fundamentally English, suggesting

the Elizabethan cottages in the land of their origin; there is also a suggestion of the Swiss. The resultant is a combination that appeals to one as appropriate and particularly suitable for its environment.

The house is located on the east side of the Exposition grounds with a hillside site amidst the Douglas firs and overlooking Lake Washington; its exact relationship to the other buildings is fixed as number 19 on the official ground plan.

While the scope of the house is primarily a rendezvous for all good Hoo Hoos, those eligible to Hoo Hoo and their families, making it a club for lumbermen and those associated with them in business, it serves as an exhibit of Washington fir and spruce, of local architectural effort, of Seattle-made furniture, fixtures and decorations; the screens were loaned by the Japanese government.

Leading off the avenue, the entrance takes the visitor between two large black cats, with be-nine tails of inspiration by day, and green eyes of prey by night, are /sic/ a brick walk to the latchstring, the only real latchstring of welcome on the Exposition grounds, which hangs invitingly through the only entrance there is to the house. Each side of the doorway is provided with settees, the ends of which carry the scrolled emblem of the fraternity.

A short flight of steps leads from the lobby to the clubroom, and on the left down to the basement, where quarters are provided for the janitor, and a hot water tank heater is installed. A double stairway leads from the level of the clubroom and with a turn reaches the upper hall.

On the main floor to the left is a checkroom 8 x 12, and immediately behind it, with an entrance from the main room, is the kitchen, 9 x 12; to the right is the secretary's room, 16 x 12. The clubroom proper is 25 x 50. The entrance to the clubroom directly from the lobby may be closed by folding screens or half-partitions, which operate on ball-bearing casters.

The secretary's room is finished in spruce from the Grays Harbor country, Washington, and was manufactured by the Slade Lumber company and the Northwest Lumber company of Aberdeen and Hoquiam. The balance of this floor is all Douglas fir.

The color scheme used throughout the clubroom floor involves shades of forest browns and light forest greens. The walls are paneled from floor to ceiling, with a plate rail and candlestick brackets on a level and at a suitable height to emphasize the decorative values. The panels carry the light forest green and the stiles, brackets and rails a soft stain of brown.

The ceiling is finished with solid 4 x 10 beams and the usual beaded ceiling, all stained the same brown as the walls. There is no false work about the house; everything is as real as it appears to be; and every exposed member of the framework is there as a part of the construction, performing a necessary function.

On the east side of the clubroom, directly opposite the entrance, there is an unusually large Denny-Renton brick fireplace which bespeaks hospitality and demands a generous supply of wood. The opening is ten feet across and six and a half feet deep; the actual firebox is reduced three and a half feet by hobs on both sides, and will take logs six

feet only in length. The sides of the fireplace are paneled and bear the Egyptian symbols of the higher orders of the fraternity. On the veranda side of the fireplace emblems of the same order form the decorative features.

The clubroom is lighted by large electric candles in massive black iron candlesticks of the primitive style and by lanterns suspended from the beams. The lanterns express originality, coupled with uniqueness and the emblem of the order; they are of the mission type with a truncated trapezoid cross section, wooden corners, panels of soft green glass and a black cat with red or green eyes in each of the four panels of the lantern. The fixtures were built at the "Homecraft" shop of Otis Sargent at West Seattle.

The furniture for the house was built largely from one-inch fir stock, along novel lines, yet comfortable and satisfying to the eye. The Seattle Turning & Scroll Works could have had no better exhibit of a product of their shops than this.

The veranda and open terrace on the east side of the house and leading around to the north and south wings are among the architectural features of the building. The first floor plan does not show the open terrace, which is 16 x 50 and adjoins the veranda along the major axis of the building. There are one hundred linear feet of the veranda, twelve feet wide, closed in with scroll panels and a railing decorated with rustic boxes of flowers.

The architectural scheme for the second floor was cleverly [sic] conceived. There is a delightful south room, well lighted, airy and provided with modern conveniences for the lady guests of the club. A similar room on the opposite side of the building serves the gentlemen as a smoking room. There is a musicians' balcony, a well reaching from the ceiling of the second story to the floor of the clubroom with casement windows opening onto it from the rooms on both sides, and a hall with tables and telephone extensions, forming, with the double stairway, the central feature of the scheme on this floor.

The upper hall is finished with plaster walls decorated in modern classic and the ceiling carries a simple line decoration.

The smoking room is finished in redwood, secured for the building through the offices of W. W. Peed from the redwood manufacturers of Eureka county, California. The color treatment of this wood is the weakest feature in the entire decoration and does not do justice to the wood, which should present a rich satin effect, difficult to distinguish from old and well-rubbed mahogany.

The walls are panelled with redwood, carrying a solid color, the ceilings are plastered and plain, and the frieze is a hand-decorated study in Washington forests.

The women's retiring room, as well as the remainder of the second floor, is finished with Douglas fir. The color scheme of the room is carried out in greens and browns. The plaster panels are gray-brown with stiles of old English brown. The frieze is decorated with Gothic geometrical figures and black cats and the ceiling is plain.

The interior draperies are a green bungalow lattice effect and black cats in applique.

The entire decoration scheme as executed by Weissenborn & Company, is a demonstration of what may be done on a small appropriation.

The building is roofed with Washington red cedar shingles, stained Venetian red.

The completed house cost, including the decorations, about \$8,500.

In addition to those mentioned above the builders who have had a share in the Hoo Hoo house are: Ellsworth & Lofgren, wiring; Eckhart Brothers, plumbing; J. J. Tinker, plastering; A. E. Coxhead, painting; Architectural Decorating company, staff cats at entrance; Ballard Lumber, Douglas fir; Schwabacher Hardware company, building hardware, and D. E. Fryer & Company, plaster.

The officers of the house are: Charles Edward Patten, president; Watkins Petrie Lockwood, first vice-president; Thomas Miller Shields, second vice-president; Fred Hayward Gilman, secretary; William Irvine Ewart, treasurer; the executive committee consists of the above officers and E. Clark Evans, David Hines Cale, William Clarence Miles and George Elmer Youle. The assistant secretary and manager of the house is Harrison Cale, to whom the writer is indebted for a major portion of the above information.

Included as part of the above article (on page 235) is one photograph and floor plans of the house.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement: This two-story (plus partial basement) wood frame structure was demolished in April of 1959.

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Wall construction: Exposed timber frame, infilled with stucco on the exterior, and paneled with wood on the interior.
2. Porches: Open veranda on east, later enclosed.
3. Chimneys: One central chimney stuccoed and with brick corners and top.
4. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Entrance door beneath projecting second-story bay.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Tall, rectangular, wood casement windows composed of square lights; no shutters.
5. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Low pitched gable roof originally covered with Washington red cedar shingles stained "Venetian red."

- b. Cornice, eaves: Deep overhanging roof; no cornice.
- c. Dormers: Broad, low pitched, shed roofed dormer projecting on either side of second-story bay.
- C. Technical Description of Interiors: See supplemental material, under Part I, C. of this report, for description of interiors.
- D. Site:
 - 1. General setting and orientation: Building was situated on crest of a ridge, the open veranda overlooking Lake Washington. The building faced west.
 - 2. Walks: Brick walk, pattern unknown, to entrance.
 - 3. Landscaping: None of interest.

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